

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A method in a computer system for organizing and displaying notification items associated with corresponding notification area icons on a display having a notification area, comprising:

receiving one or more user inputs associating at least one of a plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors with at least a portion of said notification items, wherein at least one of said plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors includes an inactivity hiding behavior that hides the corresponding notification item icon when a preset threshold of inactivity with is met, and wherein at least one of said plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors displays the corresponding notification item icon without regard to said preset threshold of inactivity;

monitoring an interval of time associated with an activity of at least a portion of the notification items;

for each of at least a portion of the notification items associated with said inactivity hiding behavior, hiding the corresponding notification area icon from view after said preset threshold of inactivity with is met; and

upon receipt of a user input indicating a desire to view the hidden notification area icons, redisplaying the hidden notification area icons in the notification area and repeating said monitoring and said hiding.

2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

arranging the notification area items in the order in which the notifications occur.

3. (withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
comparing the level of activity for the monitored item against a predetermined threshold value; and
hiding the monitored item from view, if the level of activity is less than the threshold value.

4. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

determining the occurrence of activity on the monitored and hidden item;
and
revealing the item by redisplaying the item upon the occurrence of activity.

5. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring for the item most recently active; and
revealing items in the order of the most recently active item.

6. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

7. (original) A computer system having a processor, a memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 1.

8. (previously presented) In a computer system having a graphical user interface including a display, a method of displaying and organizing notification item icons within a notification area, said method comprising:

displaying each of the notification item icons in said notification area;

providing a set of user selectable hiding behaviors to be associated with at least a portion of the notification item icons, wherein at least one of said set of user selectable hiding behaviors includes an inactivity hiding behavior that hides one or more of the notification item icons when a preset threshold of inactivity is met;

hiding one or more notification item icons associated with said inactivity hiding behavior upon meeting said preset threshold of inactivity;

retrieving a chevron icon;

displaying the chevron icon; and

upon receipt of a user input indicating a desire to view the hidden notification area icons, repeating said displaying each of the notification item icons in the notification area, repeating said hiding after said preset threshold of inactivity is met and removing the chevron icon when there are no more hidden items.

9. (original) The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising receiving a chevron entry selection signal indicative of a user selection of the chevron icon, and, in response to the chevron selection signal, displaying each of the hidden notification items on the display.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the unhide criteria is met when an entry selection signal indicative of a user selection of the notification item icon is selected by the user from the displayed, previously hidden icons.

11. (original) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the response to the selection displays the notification item icon in the notification area on the display.

12. (original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein said notification item icon is placed to the far left of the notification area.

13. (original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 8.

14. (original) A computer system having a processor, a memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 8.